

This was a hand written submission by Ms Lesses and has been transcribed by the secretariat.

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Dear Madam/Sir

Regarding your Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol, please consider the following points...

1. This Protocol is aimed at protecting not only Australia's, but our entire planet's, atmosphere, and climate balance. Thus, it is vitally important that Australia not only ratifies its current obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, but improves on them, in fact.

The subsequent environment outcome of less ozone-depleting, global warming - inducing gas emissions can only be positive. Australia's climate alone, has changed dramatically already. Adelaide's weather, for example, has altered from being "Mediterranean" (rain in winter, sunshine in spring, warm in summer), to mainly humid, as spring begins, and right through until autumn. Television environmental documentaries, about ten years ago, contained scientists warning us, that unless remedial action to halt global warming was promptly taken, the southern regions of Australia would be hit by tropical weather patterns, such as the North is wont to get. This is already occurring. The warnings were right - so what further evidence are you waiting for, before your Committee ratifies the Protocol?

The implications of more violent weather patterns, are devastating. Our agricultural sector, and people's living standards, will be severely damaged, thus weakening Australia's economy.

By ratifying this Protocol, more environmentally-sound job opportunities will arise. Companies can focus on manufacturing refrigerators, electricity-generating motors (and power plants), and any other type of turbines or machinery, which do not emit greenhouse gases. Designers, researchers, engineers, scientists, corporations and manufacturing plants, will all have excellent opportunities to contribute in an environmentally - sound way, to our economy. And this will lead to sound, long-term employment opportunities, benefiting our country immensely. For instance, installing emission-reducing devices on smoke-belching factory chimneys, or over the area where the fuel is being burned, will assist to redirect, or even re-use, whatever chemical emissions are occurring. In other words, they will not need to be released into the surrounding atmosphere. Redirecting them back

into the plant's energy-producing components, could be another way to increase energy outputs, and reduce polluting emissions.

2. Scientists in the global warming debate, can argue amongst themselves for years - but the fact remains that Australia's climate alone, is ALREADY being affected. The news reports on weather extremes, are increasing. Proof of global warming disturbing our planet's climactic balance, has actually been manifesting itself, for decades. Why wait until even more floods, cyclones, droughts and hurricanes, hit Australia's fragile ecosystem, before you decide to legislate against profit-obsessed corporations, being allowed to freely pollute our atmosphere?
3. It is in Australia's national interests, to actively enforce strict environmental regulations, where polluting companies are concerned. Such environmental vandals should be given a warning by Government Environmental Authorities, to halt their polluting actions - and if this means closing their production capacity until these corporations meet their environmental obligations, so be it. If such companies do not comply with this Government warning, the Government has the moral and legal obligation to step in; and, for the sake of our future generations, take over the management and operation of these companies. If the private "owners" agree to follow environmental guidelines, only then should these businesses be placed back in their control. The government must start fulfilling its sacred trust and duty, which being democratically elected gave it - namely, to protect our country's atmosphere and climate, through the Kyoto Protocol, as a relevant means.

Revegetation certainly has a role to play in preventing global warming - but without eliminating greenhouse gases, it will be a losing battle. "Carbon credits" are not the answer. Scientists can devise ways of re-directing greenhouse gas emissions, so that the toxic-chemical-carrying smoke, does not get released into the atmosphere. These gas emissions are not even necessary, if different ways of burning fuel are found. A new direction in manufacturing electricity, and heavy metals, must be developed. Indeed, our economic dependence on the heavy metal industry itself, must be reviewed. There are more ecologically - sustainable ways to provide long-term employment, and meet needs.

4. If the Government takes over the running of environmentally-negligent private companies, there will be no negative social implications: the workers will still continue to be paid (out of company profits); and our environment, and hence national interest, will be protected. Private companies have been "molly-coddled" by the Australian Government long enough...it is time for action.

Incentive-based approaches must be limited financial assets and resources. It is outrageous and disgraceful that wealthy industry entities, like mining companies and manufacturing plants, with significant profits at their disposal, should receive even one dollar of taxpayers' funds, to "assist" them in their environmental obligations. These corporations are growing rich, as they arrogantly pollute their way across Australia - and they should not expect Government support, or collaboration, in such irresponsible endeavours. Companies are well aware by now, of how to meet their environmental obligations. They should be doing so willingly, and with their own funds.

Respect for our environment, and efforts to halt the pollution and degradation caused by profit-obsessed corporations (including Government-sponsored activities), must become the hallmark of Australia's Federal approach, to protecting our priceless environmental heritage. To this end, the Kyoto Protocol must be immediately ratified by Australia, and even strengthened, to completely stop needless greenhouse gas emissions. The fact of the matter remains, that these emissions not only pollute our atmosphere and later our climate, but also directly damage human health.

Yours faithfully

Tina Lesses